

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-22 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 11, 12, 14-17, and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,111,604 to Hashimoto et al. ("Hashimoto").

Claims 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,111,605 to Suzuki ("Suzuki").

Claims 11 and 16 have been amended to more clearly describe the respective inventions. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 11, 12, 14-17, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Hashimoto discloses an electronic camera which detects whether an external device such as a personal computer is properly connected to the camera and in a state which permits communication. (Abstract). While Hashimoto discloses that "Step 304 detects whether the camera is connected to the communication device," this statement is followed by the statement: "This can be performed, for example, by monitoring the Data Terminal Ready (DTR) signal when the communication protocol which is being used is RS-232." Col. 10, lines 51-55. Thus, what Hashimoto checks is not whether or not a connection is established via a connector, but whether or not the partner device is in a communicable state. That is, Hashimoto requires that the contents of the signal is checked (i.e., not whether a connection is established or not, nor whether any signal is present or not, but whether a signal of interest is a particular signal such as a DTR signal or not). Further, Hashimoto fails to disclose any method other than monitoring the DTR signal.

In contrast, claim 11 recites, inter alia:

a detector for detecting an attachment condition between said connection device and said connector as to whether or not said connection device is attached to said connector

Thus, the invention of claim 11 determines whether or not a connection is established via a connector. That is, the detector detects the state of the connection between the connector and the connection device to determine whether or not the connection device is connected to the connector. This makes it possible to achieve switching to a communicable state with a simpler configuration and in a short time. Moreover, even when the partner device is not yet turned on, or even when the partner device is not yet in a communicable state, it is possible to bring the camera into a communicable state first.

Thus, since Hashimoto only discloses monitoring of the DTR signal, Hashimoto does not disclose detecting an attachment condition as required by claim 11 and therefore cannot anticipate claim 11. Claims 12, 14 and 15 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 11. Thus, Hashimoto fails to anticipate claims 12, 14 and 15 for at least the same reasons.

Claim 16 recites, inter alia:

a detector for detecting an attachment condition between said connection device and said connector as to whether or not said connection device is attached to said connector

Thus, the detector of claim 16 determines whether or not a connection is established via a connector. That is, the detector detects the state of the connection between the connector and the connection device to determine whether or not the connection device is connected to the connector.

As discussed above, Hashimoto does not disclose detecting an attachment condition as required by claim 16 and therefore cannot anticipate claim 16. Claims 17 and 19-22 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 16. Thus, Hashimoto fails to anticipate claims 17 and 19-22 for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 11, 12, 14-17, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Suzuki, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 13 requires that the external apparatus be a printer. While the Office Action is correct that Suzuki teaches a printer, Suzuki fails to rectify the deficiencies of Hashimoto in that Suzuki fails to disclose detecting an attachment condition as required by claim 11, from which claim 13 depends. Thus, claim 13 is distinguishable from Suzuki and Hashimoto, individually and in combination.

Claim 18 requires that the external apparatus be a printer. As discussed above, while Suzuki teaches a printer, Suzuki fails to rectify the deficiencies of Hashimoto in that Suzuki fails to disclose detecting an attachment condition as required by claim 16, from which claim 18 depends. Thus, claim 18 is distinguishable from Suzuki and Hashimoto, individually and in combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Suzuki, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

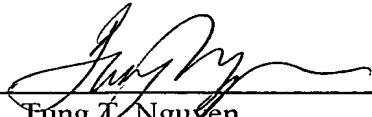
Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Application No. 09/047,676
Amendment dated April 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Tung T. Nguyen
Registration No. 42,935
Attorney for Applicants

TTN/rb:bar:jkk
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3478
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
October 31, 2003